

REMARKS

Withdrawn Claims

Claims 9-12, 15-16, 19, 28-38, and 41-45 are withdrawn from consideration due to Applicant's election in response to the prior restriction requirement. Applicant has cancelled these claims from the application in this amendment.

Applicant notes that some of the cancelled claims were dependent claims. Accordingly, the subject matter of the cancelled claims is encompassed by the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant has not surrendered any subject matter through the cancellation of the restricted claims.

Claim Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 5, 20, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,796,844 to Griesinger.

Claims 3-4, 6-8, 13-14, 17-18, 22-23, and 25-27 are objected to as being allowable while depending from a rejected base claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2, 5, 20, 21, and 24 are not anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,796,844. However, solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended the independent claims to include limitations from respective allowable dependent claims and cancelled the dependent claims. Therefore, the independent claims are allowable and all dependent claims depend from an allowable claim.

Application No.: 09/282,848

Docket No.: 49617/P020CP1CP1/09900926

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 49617/P020CP1CP1/09900926 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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